ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a brake pad or shoe and method to manufacture the same. The brake pad or shoe includes a first friction material such as a non-asbestos organic material and a second friction material such a semi-metallic material. The friction materials are configured as discrete buttons or other suitable shapes and connected to a structural backing of the brake pad or shoe in a spaced-apart configuration. The first friction material may be located at an outboard location of the structural backing and the second friction material may be located at an inboard location. Use of the two friction materials provides superior performance compared to use of a single friction material. Configuring the friction material as discrete buttons makes the friction material fabrication process independent of the structural backing configuration, which reduces complexity and cost.